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FLOOR DEBATE

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requirements that are found in the statute and establish that by complying with all of these statutory requirements, there was a good faith effort to do what the state was mandating, and based on that, be granted some time to come into compliance with any of these other regulations that may incidentally have been violated, and not be punished as a result. Since I mentioned this part about the wire flooring, I want to read into the record the new language. And I'm aware that this is not one of the exciting kind of bills that I usually bring, but I have an obligation to bring this kind of legislation, because I had a little companion animal named Mollie Rae. She was a toy poodle, miniature poodle. And when she died, it was a very traumatic experience for me. There's nothing I can do to help her. I probably will never forget her. I may not ever get over her death. But since I can't help her, I can try to help her kind. So I'm bringing this legislation to help those companion animals, who don't have a voice, who don't have a spokesperson. And all of these requirements that I'm putting in the statute are reasonable. So I want to read the language that takes the place of that prohibition against using wire flooring. As I say, that has been stricken, and this language will take its place. "A primary enclosure shall have floors that are constructed in a manner that protects the dogs' and cats' feet and legs from injury and that, if of mesh or slatted construction, do not allow the dogs' and cats' feet to pass through any openings in the floor. If a primary enclosure has a suspended floor constructed of metal strands, the strands shall either be greater than one-eighth of an inch in diameter (nine gauge) or coated with a material such as plastic or fiberglass. The suspended floor of any primary enclosure shall be strong enough so that the floor does not sag or bend between the structural supports." This language is agreed to by all of the commercial breeders, because those who are legitimate practice this anyway. The reason for that language to prohibit the wire flooring was that some of these operators will have openings so large that an animal's paw will go through. And some of them even stacked cages on top of the others. And an animal below might gnaw that animal's paw, or the animal itself might gnaw it after it has become infected. You would have to see photographs of how cruelly, brutally, and inhumanely some of these animals are kept to understand thoroughly what I'm talking about. But